

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3969

To provide for the designation of a Department of Agriculture disaster liaison to assist State and local employees of the Department in coordination with other disaster agencies in responding to federally declared disasters.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2005

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. BONNER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. PICKERING, and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To provide for the designation of a Department of Agriculture disaster liaison to assist State and local employees of the Department in coordination with other disaster agencies in responding to federally declared disasters.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LIAISON FOR**
4 **DISASTER EMERGENCIES.**

5 (a) DEPLOYMENT OF DISASTER LIAISON.—The Sec-
6 retary of Agriculture shall deploy disaster liaisons to State
7 and local Department of Agriculture Service Centers in
8 a federally declared disaster area whenever Federal Emer-

1 gency Management Agency personnel are deployed in that
2 area, to coordinate Department programs with the appro-
3 priate disaster agencies designated under the Robert T.
4 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

6 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—Disaster liaisons shall be se-
7 lected from among employees of the Department of Agri-
8 culture who have experience providing emergency disaster
9 relief in federally declared disaster areas.

10 (c) DUTIES.—A disaster liaison shall—

11 (1) serve as a liaison to State and Federal
12 Emergency Services;

13 (2) be deployed to a federally declared disaster
14 area to coordinate Department interagency pro-
15 grams to provide assistance to agricultural producers
16 in the federally declared disaster area;

17 (3) facilitate the claims and applications of ag-
18 ricultural producers who are victims of the disaster
19 that are forwarded to the Department by the appro-
20 priate State Department of Agriculture agency di-
21 rector; and

22 (4) coordinate with the Director of the State of-
23 fice of the appropriate Department agency to assist
24 with the application for and distribution of economic
25 assistance.

1 (d) FEDERALLY DECLARED DISASTER AREA DE-
2 FINED.—In this section, the term “federally declared dis-
3 aster area” means—

4 (1) an area covered by a Presidential declara-
5 tion of major disaster issued under section 401 of
6 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
7 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170); or

8 (2) determined to be a disaster area by the Sec-
9 retary of Agriculture under subpart A of part 1945
10 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations.

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